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**U.S. AND SOVIET BEGIN
ANTIMISSILE TALKS**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 (AP) —Deputy Secretary of Defense Cyrus R. Vance said today the United States and the Soviet Union had begun talks aimed at preventing a costly race for ballistic missile defenses.

President Johnson and Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara have said that such an antiballistic missile race would result in no advantage for either side.

The President said last month that the United States would take up the question with the Soviet.

After a closed-door session with the Senate Foreign Relations Disarmament Subcommittee, Mr. Vance was asked if the talks had begun. He replied: "There has been communication between our Government and the Soviet Union."

"At a high level," interjected Senator Albert Gore, Tennessee Democrat who is subcommittee chairman.

Neither Mr. Gore nor Mr. Vance would say how long they thought the discussions should go on before the United States decides to deploy an antimissile system.

Russia has deployed a system around Moscow and there are indications of plans to extend that.